

D H E C



2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201-1708

July 27, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Administrators, Nursing Homes

FROM: Jerry L. Paul, Director
Health Licensing Section

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Dennis Gibbs for', is written over the 'FROM' line.

SUBJECT: New SC Code Affecting DHEC Standards

Regulation 61-17, Standards For Licensing Nursing Homes, Sections E(3)(c) and (e) require certain staffing ratios. Section 44-7-262 has been added to the SC Code of Laws, which will modify the staffing requirements of these sections of the regulation.

Attached is a copy of the law. Compliance with this law in lieu of the current standards will be necessary by its effective date of January 1, 1999.

Should you have any questions regarding this change, please call Dennis Gibbs at (803) 737-7370.

JLP/JML

Enclosure

SECTION 46

TO AMEND THE 1976 CODE BY ADDING SECTION 44-7-262 SO AS TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM PATIENT-STAFF RATIOS FOR STAFF PROVIDING NURSING CARE IN NURSING HOMES AND MAKING THOSE MINIMUM STAFFING RATIOS A CONDITION OF LICENSURE.

A. The 1976 Code is amended by adding:

"Section 44-7-262. (A) As a condition of licensure, in addition to the number of licensed nursing personnel required by R61-17, or any other regulation, a nursing home must provide at a minimum these resident-staff ratios for staff who provide nursing care:

- (1) 9 to 1 for shift 1;
- (2) 13 to 1 for shift 2;
- (3) 22 to 1 for shift 3.

In those facilities utilizing two twelve-hour shifts, the staffing ratios for shift one apply to the twelve-hour shift occurring primarily during the day, and the staffing ratios for shift three apply to the twelve-hour shift occurring primarily during the night.

(B) For purposes of this section:

- (1) 'Shift 1' means a work shift that occurs primarily during the daytime hours including, but not limited to, a 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. shift;
- (2) 'Shift 2' means a work shift that generally includes both daytime and evening hours including, but not limited to, a 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. shift;
- (3) 'Shift 3' means a work shift that occurs primarily during the nighttime hours including, but not limited to, an 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. shift."

B. This section takes effect January 1, 1999.
